

Dear Mr. Zaitz,

I am absolutely perplexed and hoping you can explain this to me like I'm a 5 year old.

I received a request or tax bill from you (Water Resources Board) indicating I need to pay over \$1000.00 for "storm water run-off". I have several questions about what this tax is intended to accomplish. The fact that rain water has been falling from the sky for quite sometime now and ultimately hits the ground, filters thru the Earth, collects into underground rivers and streams, is re-drawn from those rivers and streams and then sold and re-sold and yet again re-sold to countless people, agriculture, other municipalities and on and on.

This fact has been going for as long as I've been alive and I still am certain I have no control of it and certainly no say or input as to what happens to this natural resource once it's released from God and ultimately into the capable hands of the Water Quality Control Board.

My questions are this:

#1 Why am I being taxed for a resource that comes completely free of charge?

#2 Because the falling rain hits the roof of the building I lease, why am I responsible for where it goes from there?

#3 If I am responsible for that falling water that hits the roof of the building I lease and ends up back to the atmosphere, only after it's been taxed and sold countless times, where is my cut of the profit?

#4 I have been in this building for 7 years and never seen nor heard of this tax or assessment before, WHY NOW?

#5 The building complex that I occupy has been standing on this Earth longer than most of us alive today, why now tax the rain water than falls from the sky, hits the roof, deflects the water from our backs and projects (somewhat) and ultimately recycles so that it can all start again?

#6 Who am I supposed to pay and what EXACTLY is done with that money?

#7 What benefit to me and my business is this tax?

#8 How does anyone justify a over a \$1000.00 bill and threaten non-payment with a \$10,000.00 bill?

Mr. Zaitz, I am really not trying to be a smartass. I am terribly frustrated with this on-going tax on tax on tax until I am completely taxed out. I can not afford to pay this bill as I am selling off most if not all of any remaining assets accumulated over the years as a product of my labor simply to try and survive this economy that I had nothing to do with destroying.

Please explain this process to me. I can not pay a \$1000.00 bill period, let alone a bill that has no merit to it whatsoever and seems to come from the same place the rain water comes from. To make things worse I am threatened with a \$10,000.00 fine if I can't pay the \$1000.00 tax. If I lay-off one person that will allow me to free the funds to pay this tax, would you mind coming down to our facility and pick out the one that should be jobless? I doubt you will and understandably so. I appreciate you are simply "doing your job" and also know that you alone are not the cause of this total economical meltdown, but you are more a part of it than I am. Why not be a part of the solution? The solution is not more fines, taxes on an already heavily overburdened small business owner that is simply trying to meet the obligations, pay the people he/she employs and contribute what we can to a sagging and nearly completely depressed economy.

You stated early on that the reason I have not been billed in the last 7 years is that "you were under the radar" and that you simply did not get around to it. Well, let me tell you, we occupy one of the largest buildings in the county, we have been here for 7 years, we build houseboats that can be seen for miles and miles. We are the first business noticeable when entering Oroville and the last when leaving.

If that is under the radar, then someone is not doing their job. Are you sure you didn't come up with this tax because you have been a part of expending your already heavy budget and simply "need the money"? Then all I can say is

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you will have to look elsewhere, hopefully within your organization to cut some wasteful spending rather than burden those of us that are hanging on by a thread.

I can not pay this and furthermore can not pay the fine that is threatened to go along with this. If this is your way of shutting down small business and creating more serious issues then you are on the right track. if that is your goal you will achieve it quickly and probably get a promotion. In all seriousness, I simply can't pay. I have no way to come up with money for such a superfluous cause and one that just springs up out of the blue. If I felt that paying with would be going toward the common good of mankind or even indirectly assist in that effort, I would find a way, but I doubt that is the case.

Sincerely,

William Hill

Emerald Bay Marine Mftg.

